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*Ohio in four wars.* A military history. By Daniel J. Ryan, former secretary of state of Ohio. (Columbus: The Heer press, 1917. 281 p. \$1.00)

*Ohio in four wars* is a reprint from Randall and Ryan's *History of Ohio*, published in 1912, of the chapters by Mr. Ryan on the "War of 1812," the "Mexican war," the "Civil war," and the "Spanish war." The modifications in the original text which the author says in the foreword he has freely used are few and unimportant. They indicate no change in purpose or no new historical light. The justification for the second appearance is the special interest of wartime readers in such phases of history as are here treated.

The history of a state's activities at such periods means to the author a military record: the marshalling of companies, battalions, and regiments, their organization, and their activities. Nearly a half of the chapters on the Mexican war and the Spanish war are taken up with such matters. When the author ventures into the causes and issues underlying the wars he follows the partisan viewpoint popular a generation ago. Such treatment will not satisfy historical students today. This verdict is particularly true of the statement of the causes of the war of 1812. Great Britain is accused of maintaining forts and posts on American soil and encouraging numerous barbarities by Indian tribes, even going to the extent of paying the savages for American scalps (p. 2). Such gross errors are few. The book is what its author intended it should be, a work for popular reading, "an inspiration and lesson to the men and women of our State to recur to the patriotic conduct and illustrious deeds of their fathers." There are those who would charge the makers with something like carelessness in proof reading, with too seldom taking the reader into their confidence upon the kind of authorities being used, with shortcomings in determining the proportions of space to be given some of the topics, and with an intemperate use of superlatives in describing the deeds of fellow citizens. But these are faults that the readers for whom the book was written will for the most part readily forgive the author. The accounts of the adventures of J. J. Andrews, a secret service officer, and his comrades, attempting to penetrate the heart of the confederacy and destroy the railroad communication between Atlanta and Chattanooga, of the peace movement of Clement L. Vallandigham and the copperheads, of the organization of the Knights of the Golden Circle, of the plot to form a northwestern confederacy, of Morgan's raid, and of the work of the Sanitary Commission after the battle of Shiloh make extremely interesting reading at the present time.

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